



WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 2025 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Gabriel Visits Mary | Luke 1:5-66*

Conversation Starter: *What are your plans this Christmas?*

Memory Verse: *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.” – Luke 2:11 (NIRV)*

Insight: *Design of God’s Creation – What I see around me reveals a Creator who cares about me*

Application: *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

Series Overview: It’s time once more to “let every heart repair a broom” and “sleep in heavenly peas.” Even though there can be confusion around some of the classic carols, every kid knows that Christmas is a time to celebrate. And we have the incredible privilege of explaining why! You may be teaching the Christmas story for the fourth time (or twenty fourth), but it’s still fresh and new for the kids in your ministry. Even though some of them may have heard the story every year, that doesn’t mean they yet understand how the birth of Baby Jesus two thousand years ago changes everything for us today. We’ll explore how God had a plan from the very beginning to send Jesus and how all of history leads up to that point. In the stories of Mary and Zechariah, in the birth of Jesus, and in the visits of the shepherds and the wise men, we see how God’s perfectly orchestrated story was cause for celebration then... and how it’s just as much reason for us to celebrate today!

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - **Before kids arrive, pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Ask God to remind you (and your group) that God is good and that He is always working for good. Pray for any visitors that they would find a safe place in your group to wonder and ask questions. Thank God for inviting ordinary people like Mary into His extraordinary rescue plan. Ask the Holy Spirit to help preteens recognize that God’s great love for them led Him to work for years and years so they could be close friends with Him again! And because He loves them so much, He is always working for good in their lives, and they can trust Him!**
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
 - ***“What is the best non-material gift you have ever received or given? (e.g., a great memory, someone's help, a kind action).***

- *What is one thing that usually happens in December that fills you with pure joy?*
- *When you think about the Christmas story, what is one thing about the birth of Jesus that gives you hope?*
- *Would you rather have a never-ending supply of your favorite Christmas cookie or have a personal snow machine that only works in your yard?*
- *If you could instantly be really good at singing or really good at cooking (for a feast!), which would you choose?*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: “Headline Strips” Activity Page;

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Spread the “Headline Strips” Activity Pages out on the floor or on a table.
- As the kids arrive, explain to them that a headline is like a chapter or a story’s title.
- Set out the pencils.
- Instruct each kid to pick a headline from the “Headline Strips” Activity Page and guess what happens next in the story (or fill in the blank) by writing their answers on the paper under the headline.

- Encourage the kids to get creative.
- Gather the kids together and let them share their headline strips and guesses with the group.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If it works better for your group, let them work with a partner to come up with a news headline!

What You Say:

“You all came up with some creative Christmas stories, friends! We might not always know what’s next, but we can know that God is always working toward something good! God is always working on writing a good story! Today, we’ll look at a true story that He worked on for years and years because He loves us—His amazing plan to send Jesus to rescue us so we could be close to Him again!

[Transition] “In today’s true story from the Bible, we’ll discover how an angel visited Mary, Jesus’ mother, to tell her that she would be giving birth to the Savior of the WORLD! It’s a pretty epic story, and it was all a part of God’s BIG plan that God had been working and working on throughout history. Let’s go find out more!”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Week 2 brings us to the stories of Mary, Zechariah, and Elizabeth. After hundreds of years with no recorded word from God, the rescue plan was set in motion. God sent angelic messengers with amazing news to Zechariah and to an ordinary girl named Mary. While Zechariah couldn’t quite believe that he was part of God’s plan, Mary chose to humbly accept her role as the mother of God’s own Son. No matter how we respond, God’s rescue plan can’t be stopped.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Butcher paper; markers

What You Do:

- Before you begin, tape the butcher paper on a wall or across the floor.
- Tell kids this is the “Jesus Graffiti Wall.”
- Play the worship music softly.
- Invite the kids to write or draw words, doodles, or symbols of truths they know about Jesus.
 - *example, Jesus came for everyone, Jesus is God’s Son, I can trust God because He is good, I can say “yes!” to God like Mary did, etc.*
- As they work, ask them questions like:
 - If you were making a headline about Jesus—a big, bold statement hitting the main point you want to make for the whole world to see—what would it say?

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- If kids in your group need more personal space, consider using more than one piece of butcher paper to spread them out.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles; dry-erase board

What You Do:

- Before you begin, write Luke 2:11 on the dry-erase board and erase several words. The kids will identify the missing words during this activity.
- Give every kid a Bible and invite them to look up Luke 2:11.
 - ***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:*** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids, like 'Messiah.' If you have a lot of returning kids from week 1, ask them what 'Messiah' means. If not, use this recap to share:
 - "Messiah" is a special title that means: "Anointed One" or "Chosen One."
 - A long time before Jesus was born, God promised His people that He would send someone to rescue them, to make things right, so they could be close to God again. That person would be the Messiah!
 - This verse that we shared today is part of the message the angel delivered to the shepherds that Jesus is the Messiah! The angel was saying: "This is the One God promised! He's the Rescuer, the forever King, the One we've all been waiting for to make us right with God again!"
- Put the Bibles away.
- Gather the kids together in front of the dry-erase board.
- Let them take turns guessing the missing words from the verse.
- Continue changing the missing words and calling on various kids to guess them.
- Ask:

- The verse says a Savior has been born “to you.” How does it feel knowing Jesus came for YOU personally?
- If you had to share this verse with a friend in your own words, what would you say?

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Index cards; pencils

What You Do:

- Give every kid an index card and a pencil.
- Invite them to reflect on today’s *[Bottom Line]* **God always had a plan to send Jesus.**
- Lead a salvation conversation with the kids.
 - Say: “God always had a plan to send Jesus. That plan wasn’t just for Mary or the shepherds or the people living back then. It was for YOU too! God’s plan has always been to make a way for us to be close to Him, and that’s why He sent Jesus.”
 - “The truth is, we all mess up (that’s called sin). Sin keeps us from being close to God. BUT God’s plan was to send Jesus to take the punishment for our sin so we could be close friends with God again! When you believe in Jesus, you’re saying, ‘I know You died for me, and I want to follow You.’ That’s the BEST news you could ever accept. If you’ve never told Jesus you believe in Him and want to follow Him, you can do that anytime, even right now, as you pray.”
- Encourage the kids to take a quiet moment to talk to God.
 - Say: “Take a quiet moment. You might want to thank God for sending Jesus. You might want to write a prayer telling Jesus you believe in Him and want to follow Him! Or you might just want to tell God what you’re feeling right now.”

- Instruct the kids to use the index card and a pencil to write a prayer to God.
- Spend some time in quiet prayer.